

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

First and second shoe lacing elements are threaded through eyelets of a shoe. An end of each lacing element is anchored to the shoe body, preferably at or adjacent an end of the expansion opening on the shoe. Each lacing element optionally defines a lacing loop on the exterior of the shoe body. The lacing elements, optionally lacing loops, are threaded through clasp structure. Pulling the lacings, which exit the clasp structure tightens the lacing elements on the shoe body. The lacing elements are brought into gripping engagement with gripping elements of the clasp. When the tightening force is released, with the gripping elements engaged, the gripping elements grip the lacing elements and hold the lacing elements in tightened position relative to the shoe body. Releasing the gripping elements from the lacing elements releases the lacing elements from their tightened positions relative to the shoe body.